

**CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
November 28, 2012 MINUTES**

The Human Relations Advisory Board (HRAB) of the City of Mesa met at a Board November 28th, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Lower Level, City Council Chambers, 57 E. First Street.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rory Gilbert, Chair
Hong Chartrand
Denise Heap- Vice Chair
Frank Johnson
Wayne Manske
Cliff Moon
Orchidia Peterson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jaime Aguirre
Lela Hinds-Peterson

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese
Andrea Arenas

GUESTS

Asst. Chief Mario
Lattanzio
Det. Frailan Young

1. Chair's Call to Order.

Ms. Gilbert called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

- Charmain Hopkins's Resignation

Ms. Gilbert advised the board of Ms. Hopkins resignation and acknowledged her work on the board.

2. Items from Citizens Present.*

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the board.

3. Approval of minutes from the October 24th, 2012 board meeting.

A motion was made by Ms. Peterson to approve the October 24th, 2012 minutes. Ms. Heap seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Mesa Police Department Report.

Assistant Chief Mario Lattanzio introduced himself and Det. Frailan Young to the board. Asst. Chief Lattanzio advised that the Mesa Police Department had reported a 6% decrease in crimes for the year, which is on top of an already downward trend. The comparable rates are similar to year 1963 when looking at crimes per 1,000 within the city, which continues to experience a large increase in growth and population. He stated this was due to programs targeting repeat offenders so they are not out on the streets causing more crimes.

Ms. Heap inquired whether information was known regarding an incident where two young Gilbert men were charged with a series of vandalism crimes. During the questioning, the police officer made an assertion regarding the sexual orientation of one of the men. In response to the question, Asst. Chief Lattanzio advised that he was not aware and that those concerns are generally outside of his realm of duties. Ms. Heap stated that her greatest concern is that the assumption itself indicates a lack of tolerance towards diversity issues.

Ms. Gilbert expressed that the board values the supportive relationship between HRAB and the police department, thus wants to show same support for Mesa Police efforts within the community. Asst. Chief Lattanzio stated that one concern they do have is getting community members to participate on their board. Currently, they are experiencing a decline in membership and in attendance. Asst. Chief Lattanzio asked for

assistance in promoting the boards to the public to increase participation. Ms. Heap suggested that when the boards are formed, that they should returned to board member lead meetings rather than being guided by the police representative, as to ensure that the concerns from the community are actually addressed and conversation is formed. Mr. Moon asked where the forums are held. Asst. Chief Lattanzio explained that times and dates of the forums are changes depending on the forum and the group itself.

5. Discuss and consider direction on Human Relations Advisory Board web pages on City of Mesa website.

- Discuss and take action on Board Member biographies

Ms. Gilbert questioned the board on what actions they would like for the webpage biographies. In response, Mr. Moon stated that from his understanding the board was to prepare a brief biography for consideration. Mr. Moon read his proposed biography to the board. Ms. Gilbert deduced that Mr. Moon addressed his connection to Mesa, his occupation, stated a short philosophy or belief, and listed affiliations in an approximate 150 word statement. Ms. Heap proposed whether individual identities, such as race, gender, sexual orientation, should be identified as to better relate to the community. The board agreed to use member discretion as to the personal information they choose to release while committing to the template based from Mr. Moon's biography. Mr. Manske suggested a deadline to submit the biographies. The board agreed to bring them by the next meeting on January 23rd, 2013.

- Take photograph for biography webpage

The board also agreed to take a group photograph, or several group photographs, at the next meeting.

6. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force.

Ms. Gilbert briefly summarized the work thus far of the task force and the actions that will be taken to invite new members. Ms. Gilbert outlined the proposed agenda and asked that if members have any suggested contacts that their information be forwarded to the staff. Ms. Heap requested assistance with contacting diversity groups in particular. In response, Mr. Moon stated that he will contact the Buffalo Soldiers.

- Approve January 26th, 2013 Ad Hoc Veterans Task Force meeting.

The motion was carried unanimously.

- Approve request to approach Public Information Office regarding a Veterans Information link to be added on the City of Mesa webpage.

This item was tabled for discussion.

- Hear an update on scheduled meetings for 2012/13 year.

The board was advised of the current schedule.

7. Hear, discuss, and take action on items presented by the Ad Hoc Issues Research and Action Team.

Ms. Heap informed the board that the meeting scheduled at 5pm today, November 28th, 2012, was cancelled.

- Approve request to approach the Human Resources Department regarding a study to be done to extend city employee benefits for domestic partners

Ms. Heap summarized the previous meeting, held on November 15th, 2012, in which a motion was made by IRA to have a request submitted for a cost analysis to be done by the Human Resources

Department on employee benefits for domestic partners. The motion was carried unanimously. The staff will submit the request on behalf of the board.

- Consider and approve sponsorship of North Pointe I HOA community meeting to be held February 2013.

Ms. Heap summarized past communications with North Pointe HOA Chair George Bach. She then informed that he is no longer the chair and requested that the meeting is tabled until further contact is made with the current HOA committee. The board agreed.

- Hear an update on scheduled meetings for 2012/13 year.

Ms. Heap advised the board that future IRA meetings are to be held on the second Thursday of each month. Ms. Heap also expressed the importance of meeting attendance. Ms. Gilbert suggested that topics of concern/ interest may need to be revised at the next board meeting according to what can be realistically accomplished in the remaining year.

8. Hear and discuss and take action on Peace Pole project.

Ms. Gilbert reminded the board that the project was already approved, but that she is still working on obtaining more detailed information. Ms. Gilbert will update the board in January of her findings. Currently, the project concept has already been approved by the city council, however the board will need to decide where they would like to place the pole, ex. in front of the council chambers or town hall, and whether they would like to have a small ceremony. Mr. Manske suggested that the pole could be placed at one of the new light rail stations. Ms. Heap stated that she liked the concept of the pole in front of the council chambers because it would balance the ideals represented by the current statue of Senator Ernest McFarland.

9. Hear an update from the General Plan Committee.

Ms. Heap informed the board that she attended two meetings. The General Plan Committee requested a member from HRAB be on the board so they can demonstrate their willingness towards diversity within issues. Ms. Heap explained that the committee discussed their 180-page strategic plan to which she suggested they indicate that, "the City of Mesa values diversity within their residents". Ms. Heap further informed that the transportation department plans to utilize more trees along walking paths and on the banks of the canals to make it a friendlier environment for citizens.

10. Hear and discuss conferences and/or meetings.

- Discuss and approve participation in MLK Dinner to be held on January 19th, 2013 at Windermere Hotel & Conference Center, 5750 E. Main St., Mesa at 6pm.

It was moved by Ms. Heap to approve the event, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Discuss and approve participation in MLK Parade and Festival to be held on January 21st, 2013 in Downtown Mesa from 11am-4pm.

It was moved by Ms. Chartrand to approve the event, Mr. Johnson seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

- Discuss and approve participation in Unity Walk to be held on February 2nd, 2013 in Downtown Tempe at 10am, and the funding of T-shirts for the event.

It was moved by Ms. Chartrand to approve the event, Mr. Moon seconded. The motion was carried unanimously. The funding of the T-shirts will be further discussed at the January meeting.

11. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Meeting set on December 26th, 2012 has been cancelled.
- Next meeting will be held on January 23rd, 2013 at 6pm.

12. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59pm.

Submitted By:



Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator